

**KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 6-7, 2006**

**STATE BOARD ROOM
1ST FLOOR, CAPITAL PLAZA TOWER
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY**

SUMMARY MINUTES

The Kentucky Board of Education held its regular meeting on December 6-7, 2006, in the State Board Room, First Floor, Capital Plaza Tower, Frankfort, Kentucky. The Board conducted the following business:

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Keith Travis called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. He asked that all cell phones be turned off or muted and reminded everyone that the meeting was being broadcasted over the internet through webcasting.

ROLL CALL

Present for the meeting were C.B. Akins, Kaye Baird, Joe Brothers, Bonnie Lash Freeman, Judy Gibbons, Doug Hubbard, David Rhodes, Keith Travis, and Janna Vice. Absent were David Webb and Tom Layzell. Jeanne Ferguson joined the meeting in progress at 8:36 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 4-5, 2006 AND NOVEMBER 1, 2006 REGULAR MEETINGS

Chair Travis asked if there were any revisions or additions to the minutes. C.B. Akins asked that staff make sure it is noted that a discussion on accommodations for special need students during the testing discussions be included in the November 1 minutes. At this point Kaye Baird moved approval of the October 4-5, 2006 and November 1, 2006 minutes (including Akins' amendment) and Judy Gibbons seconded the motion. The motion carried.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE EDUCATION CABINET

Secretary Laura Owens indicated that her office and the Governor are willing to help facilitate the hiring of the new Commissioner in any way that the Board needs assistance. She emphasized that the new persons for the Council on Postsecondary Education and the Commissioner must be strong individuals.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

Mr. Travis noted that Dr. Layzell could not be present but had sent a written report found in each member's folder.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD

Dr. Phil Rogers pointed out that the new Education Professional Standards Board 2006-08 goals and strategic plan were placed at each Board member's seat. He noted that goal 5 is a new one for the Education Professional Standards Board and indicated the Board will work with its partners and the Cabinet to do a statewide survey of working conditions as a starting point for this goal. Rogers stated that the work is continuing on the Master's Program Redesign and said it will come before the Education Professional Standards Board in early spring. He went on to say that a report on the Principal's Program Redesign will be ready by June 30.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Interim Commissioner Kevin Noland reported the following:

- The Kentucky Department of Education's Employees of the Month for the last four months were introduced to the Board as follows: September – Miriam Woodhead, Office of Special Instructional Services; October – Teresa Perry, Office of the Commissioner; November – Pat Mohon, Kentucky School for the Blind; and December – Viem Nicholason, Office of Internal Administration and Support. These employees were invited to eat lunch with the Board.
- Kentucky Department of Education staff has been working extremely hard and the work of two groups that have been under intense pressure with deadlines needs to be highlighted. Staff in the Office of Assessment and Accountability has been working on gathering input for the Board on revisions to the accountability regulation. In addition to this important work, they are interacting with the U.S. Department of Education to meet the requirements of the Peer Review on our assessment and working with the testing contractor on producing the new test for next spring. Staff members need to be thanked for their long hours and hard work. Also, staff in the Office of Internal Administration and Support and the Office of Technology have worked many long hours on the evaluation of the proposals submitted in response to the Request for Proposals for the student information system. This has been a long process and staff followed a very detailed procedure in selecting the successful bidder, which was announced last Friday. Staff needs to know that they are appreciated for their extra effort.

GOOD NEWS FROM SCHOOLS/DISTRICTS

The following items of good news were shared by the Board members that are noted:

- C.B. Akins – KET’s Friends Board received the Community Development Award from the National Friends of Public Broadcasting. The Board won the award for its work with the Listening Project, which is an outreach program that connects KET Board members and staff with people throughout the state in small, diverse groups that discuss community issues. Jewell Dean Ellis, Manager of the Program Branch in the Department’s Division of Career and Technical Education, helped organize the project. Congratulations to KET!
- C.B. Akins – The Future Black Males Working Project is a program that is going on at Leestown Middle School and is sponsored by the Bracktown Baptist Church. The program is for middle school African-American boys. Forty-four are currently enrolled and attend every Saturday. It has been up and running since last January and has strong parental support. An increase in test scores from these boys has been evidenced and discipline problems have gone way down. This past Sunday, Dr. Bill Crouch, President of Georgetown College, appeared at Bracktown to present five full scholarships to Georgetown College that will be waiting on these students when they graduate. Congratulations to all involved in this program!
- Judy Gibbons – At the recent Kentucky High School Marching Band Competition held at Western Kentucky University in November, the following honors were awarded to high schools:
 - Class 1-A, first place, Beechwood High; second place, Williamstown High
 - Class 2-A, first place, Mercer County High; second place, Lloyd Memorial High
 - Class 3-A, first place, Adair County High; second place, Bourbon County High
 - Class 4-A, first place, Madisonville-North Hopkins High; second place, Calloway County High
 - Class 5-A, first place, Lafayette High; second place, Dunbar High (both in Fayette County)

Beechwood also won the Class A National Championship at the Bands of America Grand Nationals Competition, held in Indianapolis in November. Congratulations to all of these fine bands!

- Janna Vice – Patrice McCrary, a kindergarten teacher at Cumberland Trace Elementary in Warren County has been selected as a member of the All-USA Teacher Team. The 20-member team is selected by the newspaper, *USA Today*, from nationwide nominations. Nominees are judged on how well they define and

meet their students' needs and the impact they have on student learning. They all receive trophies and share \$22,500.00 awards with their schools. Each will be profiled in the newspaper this school year as representatives of all outstanding teachers. Congratulations to Patrice on receiving this distinguished honor!

- Bonnie Freeman – It was a pleasure to be part of the Kentucky team during the Congressional Conference on Civics Education held on November 18-20, 2006. The team was lead by Trey Grayson, Secretary of State. At the conference, it was my pleasure to introduce Galelyn McElroy, a teacher at Central High School in Jefferson County who teaches senior legal government services, U.S. History and World Civilization. Ms. McElroy was one of three teachers to receive the first annual Civics Education Teacher Award. She believes the award is about students and emphasized that she is committed to helping students that are struggling. Ms. McElroy established partnerships with law firms to provide mentoring and shadowing experiences, sponsors a mock trial team and helped to found the United Nations Club at the University of Louisville Summer Academy held at the Brandeise School of Law. She offered her congratulations to Ms. McElroy!
- Keith Travis – The McCracken County School District is only the fourth school district in the state to receive district accreditation from the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges. McCracken County Schools have been accredited for decades, but this is the first time the district sought the district level designation. McCracken County joins Henderson County, Covington Independent and Pikeville Independent as Kentucky's accredited public school districts. Congratulations to McCracken County for working to achieve this level of recognition!

ANNUAL REPORT FROM KET ON JOINT KDE/KET EFFORTS

Executive Director of KET, Malcolm Wall, thanked the Board for the opportunity to appear before it and then introduced Bill Wilson, Deputy Executive Director for Education at KET and Kathy Quinn, Director of Education at KET. Mr. Wall then reported the following:

- KET was sad to hear of the passing of Bud Pogue on Monday, who was a remarkable leader for education in Kentucky. He served on the state board from 1956 to 1990 and was a champion of education. In addition, he was a wonderful friend to KET. Everyone's thoughts are with his family.
- KET thanks the remarkable staff at the Kentucky Department of Education for working with KET so closely on education initiatives. Starr Lewis serves on the KET authority and is a remarkable educator. Michael Miller is first class as well. Thanks also to C.B. Akins for joining the team as the Board's representative. Hilma Prather, former Kentucky Board of Education member, is a newly appointed member of the KET authority.

- Bill Wilson, Kathy Quinn and Malcolm Wall are all part of the task force that works with KDE staff to make sure that KET and KDE are in alignment on initiatives. This is the fourth year for KET to make this annual report to the Board. No other state in the nation has its Board closely aligned with its state public television network. We often take this valued relationship for granted.
- The purpose of collaboration between the Department and KET is to make sure that KDE addresses the content and that KET addresses production and delivery. The state of the union of this collaborative initiative is that it is strong and robust. This provides evidence that the work of the joint task force to ensure coordination and alignment is working. Three initiatives highlighted that have resulted from the joint work were:
 - Encyclomedia was launched last year and is an on-line, on-demand service offering over 5,000 videos to classroom teachers, students and higher education entities around the state. Extensive usage has occurred and the videos are aligned to Kentucky standards. Since August 1995, over one million videos have been viewed. Additionally, 18,562 Kentucky teachers have been trained on Encyclomedia. Kentucky Virtual High School offers an on-line course that aids teachers in using the service. It is important to note that all of the content is aligned to the new Program of Studies, Core Content and academic expectations. However, none of this project could have occurred without the support of David Couch and the Office of Education Technology. The project is now jointly funded by KET and KDE through June 2008. Thanks should also go to former Commissioner Gene Wilhoit, who had the vision to recognize the importance of the service. In each member's packet, information appears on how to access Encyclomedia.
 - The next joint initiative to highlight was the Arts Toolkits. Toolkit materials were brought today for each Board member to take with them. Toolkits target the areas of dance, drama and visual arts with the Visual Arts Toolkit being the most recent one produced in September of this year. The Visual Arts Toolkit is in 95% of districts and 61% of schools. KET is conducting workshops and conferences on how to use these kits.
 - KDE and KET also collaborate on professional development opportunities as follows:
 - The CD-rom for primary teachers on Literacy Strategies in Action presents over 100 clips of authentic lessons and teacher interviews. This CD-rom was delivered free of charge to every school in Kentucky and all Colleges of Education. Schools are given the right for unlimited duplication of this CD-rom. Phase 2 of this particular project will target teachers in grades 4-12 to help them work with struggling readers and special needs students and Phase 3 will be targeted to school administrators at all levels.

- Through a grant from the Annenberg Foundation, Inside Writing Communities for Grades 3 through 5 is a 16-part professional development workshop that premieres nationally in January on the Annenberg Channel.
 - A distance-learning project funded by the U.S. Department of Education includes Kentucky as one of eight states working collaboratively to produce on-line professional development for teachers.
 - KET offered 19 on-line professional development courses this year that were accessed by 350 teachers.
- As to what is next for KET, the network is committed to take on science, engineering and mathematics and will raise these to the national level by meeting with national public television leaders in Washington.
 - KET is here to work with the Department to serve teachers in the classroom. It is a robust, engaged agency that serves teachers. KET thanks the Department for its support and collaboration.

703 KAR 5:020, THE FORMULA FOR DETERMINING SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY (FINAL)

Chair Keith Travis indicated to the Board that the School Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council (SCAAC) had asked for a Board representative to attend their meetings. He asked any Board member who would be interested in serving in this capacity to let him know.

Interim Commissioner Kevin Noland came forward to set the context for the discussion on 703 KAR 5:020. He said that staff had wrestled for several months with the issues related to this regulation on how to put incentives within the regulation language to improve teaching and learning. He also noted that the necessity to implement SB 130 in a way that is valid and reliable has been a consideration in amending this regulation as well as testing what is intended, maintaining the integrity of the test and ensuring fairness. Noland went on to say that at the Education Assessment and Accountability Review Subcommittee (EAARS) yesterday, the committee heard from two National Technical Advisory Panel on Assessment and Accountability (NTAPAA) members, Dr. James Catterall and Dr. David Miller, who were asked a lot of questions. He noted that three Board members were present as well as Secretary Owens. Noland then explained that if the Board voted on the content of the regulation today, it would then be filed with the Legislative Research Commission, followed by a public hearing on January 25. He stated that the comments from that public hearing would be compiled into a Statement of Consideration that would come back to the Board in February so that it will see the regulation again and can make adjustments at that point. He continued that after the February meeting, the regulation will go to EAARS in March and then the Interim Joint

Education Committee in April. Throughout this process, Noland pointed out, the regulation can be adjusted. He then recommended that today the Board give final approval to the regulation knowing there are opportunities for further changes.

Deputy Commissioner Linda France then took over the presentation and said that since staff's last conversation with the Board, lots of input and guidance have been received. She noted that the number one goal of staff is to strengthen the link between curriculum, instruction and assessment. Deputy Commissioner France pointed out that issues on which input was received include bringing in PLAN and ACT as the norm-referenced test and the timing of integrating ACT with the Kentucky Core Content Test. France noted that alignment issues are not addressed in the regulation and will be addressed through a study. She stated that staff has heard Dr. Catterall's and Dr. Miller's advice from the EAARS meeting, advice from some legislators to proceed with caution and from others to proceed with great speed, the opinion of Lu Young, Superintendent of Jessamine County and staff members urging caution. After much deliberation, she commented, the Department's response based on all of the feedback is to proceed with caution as far as integrating ACT with the Kentucky Core Content Test.

Next, Associate Commissioner Pam Rogers led the discussion and reminded the Board that after getting input in November, staff met with NTAPAA, SCAAC, the Local Superintendents Advisory Council (LSAC) and EAARS. Thus, she noted that option 2 of the regulation resulted that differs from the version in the December Agenda Book. She pointed out that the changes to the regulation from what the Board had previously seen appear in red in option 2. Rogers went on to say that there had been lots of discussion on using ACT items along with the Kentucky Core Content Test items. She again reminded the Board that this issue is not in the regulation but will be part of the upcoming study. Rogers said that this does not affect the decision today on the regulation, but explained it will flow into the system eventually.

Bonnie Freeman then asked when the study would be completed. Rogers responded that the vendor will be chosen by January and then the study can begin. Linda France added that when staff gets the results of the study, it will bring them back to the Board.

Joe Brothers then commented that he thought we had to include ACT this year or we would not be in compliance with the law. He added that he thought the experts at EAARS said to proceed on an accelerated schedule.

Pam Rogers responded that NTAPAA said to proceed with caution.

Doug Hubbard offered that he was afraid if we follow NTAPAA's advice it will be 2010 by the time ACT is part of our testing system.

Linda France then explained that it must be determined what ACT items align to Core Content and emphasized that the conditions that ACT and KCCT are given under are completely different.

Chair Travis then asked staff to go through a timeline on how ACT would be integrated.

Deputy Commissioner Linda France responded that currently, it is planned to administer the ACT in 2007-08 and include that score in the norm-referenced test index. Then, she noted, as we see how items react, staff will proceed with merging the two tests in 2008-09.

Keith Travis emphasized that we must align ACT with KCCT and not the other way around.

Interim Commissioner Kevin Noland added that Dr. Catterall believes the alignment will be between 30 and 75 percent. He noted that PLAN has already been given statewide and will be counted at 5 percent in 2006-07. Then, he noted that in 2007-08, PLAN and ACT will compose the 5 percent previously assigned to the norm-referenced test index. He commented that staff will then work to make ACT part of the Kentucky Core Content Test accountability in 2008-09. Noland emphasized that work will be done all along the way to get to the point of including ACT as part of the accountability index. He pointed that at the EAARS meeting, Dr. Catterall indicated that we need to see how ACT items behave before they are included in the accountability index.

David Rhodes then asked if we should have a second opinion besides the one from the vendor doing the study and felt it might give him a level of comfort.

Linda France responded that we may have to do a study every year to see how the items behave.

Doug Hubbard then asked if Dr. Catterall was representing the full panel and Pam Rogers responded that he indicated he was presenting the input from the full NTAPAA panel.

Judy Gibbons then said a pilot proposal was mentioned yesterday and asked if this could be done.

Linda France responded that the Department has a couple of district volunteers if it was found that this could be possible.

Chair Travis then stated there are lots of expressions of concern about how ACT is integrated and at what speed this occurs. He reminded the Board that KIRIS crashed due to non-support from the field and emphasized that those taking and administering this system must support it or there will be great backlash. Travis pointed out that culture change takes five to seven years and commented that even if we take the psychometricians out, if we don't have support, the new system will not work.

Interim Commissioner Noland said that he thinks all of the options that were proposed are legally permissible and stated the Department wants to fully implement SB 130.

Joe Brothers stated that it appears most persons were advocating caution; however, he thought that the ACT could be given in the spring of 2007 and get a year jump on the

process. Brothers emphasized the need to get students ready for college and improve the ACT scores. He thought we needed to move with a sense of urgency.

Pam Rogers explained that ACT will not allow accommodations for special needs students in the spring of 2007.

Janna Vice noted that she thought the primary reason for not giving the ACT in the spring of 2007 was due to no funding application for this purpose. Pam Rogers replied affirmatively and said that reason plus the accommodations issue were problematic. Vice went on to ask if the study will also do an alignment of PLAN and EXPLORE with the Core Content. Linda France responded that this will have to be a separate study.

Next, Division Director Rhonda Sims stated that she would go through the regulation changes to see if there were any questions. She explained the following elements:

- Fall assessment – Kentucky had to develop a definition for full academic year for the *No Child Left Behind Act*, which is now having a student attend a school for 100 days. When a test is given in the fall of the year, this is very early and so staff's recommendation is for accountability for a student to go back to where he or she was enrolled for a full academic year in the prior school year. This would apply to PLAN and on-demand writing.
- Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) – The regulation was changed relative to the ASVAB test because this particular assessment data may not be available for use. The regulation has been modified to remove this particular measure.
- National Merit Finalist Designation – At the recommendation of the School Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council, the measure of students receiving a National Merit Finalist Designation has been added to the bonus category for transition to adult life.

At this point, Janna Vice expressed concern about dropping the survey of students relative to transition because she felt that follow-up is needed on the fate of students. Pam Rogers responded that at some point we may be able to use the Individual Learning Plan for meaningful tracking of students. Linda France then noted that the approach in the regulation is aimed at putting more emphasis on being prepared for success.

Ms. Sims then continued with going over changes in the regulation from the last time the Board had reviewed it as follows:

- Kentucky values added to the graduation rate – Regarding the provision of students receiving certificates of attainment earning one point, the language that previously appeared saying “and this value shall be capped at one percent of the student population for a district”, has been deleted.

- Chart showing weights assigned to ranges of student performance for PLAN and ACT – On page 10, line 11 of the Option 2 regulation, the table proposing an ACT index created from weights assigned to ranges of student performance for PLAN and ACT was deleted until the values could be evaluated for accuracy. Staff indicated that they would try to bring back a revised table to the Board at the next meeting.
- ACT index – On page 10, lines 12-17 of the Option 2 regulation, the following language has been added: “The Kentucky Board of Education shall review recommendations and advice regarding a process for generating an ACT index from the National Technical Advisory Panel on Assessment and Accountability, the School Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council, the Office of Education Accountability and the Local Superintendents Advisory Council and shall establish a process to provide schools and districts an ACT index created from weights assigned to ranges of student performance for PLAN and ACT.”

At this point, Doug Hubbard asked why PLAN was included immediately. Linda France responded that PLAN data is all we have right now to base the ACT index on for the 5 percent value previously assigned to the norm-referenced test. Hubbard went on to question why it would be included in the future. Kevin Noland then indicated that more students are included if both PLAN and ACT make up the index. He assured Mr. Hubbard that in February a new chart giving cut points for ACT and PLAN would come forward. Pam Rogers added that NTAPAA supports such an index.

Chair Keith Travis summarized that Option 2 of the regulation has been modified from feedback of various groups and noted that more input will be received from the public hearing. He commented that more discussion can then occur in February.

Janna Vice noted that she regrets the alignment study has not been done because it puts the Board in a precarious position.

Keith Travis agreed with Ms. Vice’s concerns but he said he felt the Board must do what’s best for the students of Kentucky regardless of the political positions. He stated that the Board must move forward, accept the proposal, and come back for more discussion in February.

Joe Brothers then said his issue is not doing ACT in the spring of 2007 with the only explanation being given that funding is not available. He felt that the elected representatives have spoken and that 2007 gains a year for the alignment process. Brothers felt an acceptable compromise would be to pass the regulation with the understanding that the Department and legislature would work this out.

Chair Travis responded that he could not support making schools give the ACT this spring. He stated that the sense of urgency needs to be considered in the light of caution.

Janna Vice then asked if it was possible to do a pilot in 2007 and Kevin Noland responded that funding would be questionable on whether the pilot could be conducted.

At this point, Doug Hubbard moved to give an aligned ACT and KCCT test in the spring of 2008. Joe Brothers seconded the motion. The motion failed with 3 voting for it and 7 against it. Those voting for the motion were Doug Hubbard, Joe Brothers and David Rhodes.

Next, Jeanne Ferguson moved to accept Option 2 of the regulation as presented by the staff and Bonnie Lash Freeman seconded the motion. The motion carried with David Rhodes and Doug Hubbard voting no.

DROPOUT PREVENTION AND PERSISTENCE TO GRADUATION

Chair Travis indicated that since the Board was running short on time for the morning session, questions only would be taken on this particular item with more discussion brought back in February.

Jeanne Ferguson asked what is being done to improve the dropout rate of males.

Linda France responded that Department staff are trying to find answers to questions such as who these students are, where they are located, why they are dropping out and what more can be done to prevent their dropping out. Associate Commissioner Steve Schenck added that in addition to identification efforts, there are professional development efforts on gender-based needs that are occurring.

C.B. Akins then stated that it bothers him that a lot of studies are being done on this issue but indicated that it is commonly known that a large percent of dropouts are African-American males. He felt that this issue needs to be laid on the table with an acknowledgement as to where the bulk of the problem is occurring so that something can be done to target the problem.

David Rhodes then asked for clarification about the newspaper article on discrepancy in dropout data.

Linda France explained that the state auditor's office did a study showing that a discrepancy in dropout figures exists. She noted that Department staff is looking into the issues that were pointed out and said that the timing of data collection and method of collection affects dropout data. France said that staff thinks these factors are part of the problem plus reporting issues are involved. She stated that the Department is trying to address these problems through the new student information system and individual student identifiers.

Next, Jeanne Ferguson pointed out the statistic showing that 95 percent of students who drop out are not involved in extra-curricular activities. She wanted to know if parents are aware of the statistic.

Linda France replied that she was not sure parents are aware of the statistic but felt that today's discussion on that fact, the African-American males issue and the individual

schools where the dropout problem is most evident will shine a spotlight on these important problems and the need to intervene.

Bonnie Lash Freeman inquired if we have programs where the dropout problem has been turned around and if so, could we ask some of these to come in February to address the Board.

Associate Commissioner Johnnie Grissom replied that there are places that are doing a better job relative to the African-American male dropout rate and on achievement in general. She stated that staff has been visiting some of these places and at least one of them will be at the February meeting.

Ms. Freeman continued that it is important to show solutions and share them with other districts around the state.

Deputy Commissioner Linda France then pointed out that an article from the *New York Times* titled “Making of a Student” was forwarded to the Board that showed adults go the extra mile in programs that are successful in dropout intervention.

Bonnie Freeman agreed that the time and interest of adults matters and makes a difference in the lives of students.

Johnnie Grissom then added that some of the real issues in schools where more success has occurred in addressing African-American male dropouts are race and poverty.

C.B. Akins agreed that these are difficult issues but emphasized they need to be raised in order to address the dropout issue. He felt there has to be a grassroots movement and a retooling of thinking from doing for people to doing with them in order to get buy-in at the local level.

At this point, Keith Travis said that more discussion on this topic would come back in February and he requested staff include where we are and what we’re doing in the area of dropout prevention plus have at least one successful district as part of the February presentation.

Joe Brothers asked that historical trends also be addressed.

Janna Vice commented that the Board has been consumed with testing and that more time needs to be spent on the needs of students.

JOSEPH W. KELLY AWARD PRESENTATION

Chair Keith Travis presented the Joseph W. Kelly Award to Henry Vogt Heuser, Jr. of Louisville. Mr. Heuser is the CEO and President of UniStar-Vogt and was nominated by Jefferson County Superintendent Stephen Daeschner. Also recognized were the other nominees for the award as follows: Donald Firchow, retired employment manager of

Logan Aluminum in Russellville, Kentucky and Emerson Power Transmission-SealMaster Bearings in Morehead, Kentucky.

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Action/Consent Items

1. **Prater Borders Elementary School (Magoffin County) request for school-based decision making (SBDM) exemption.** Judy Littleton came forward to address this item and said that Prater Borders has completed the application for the exemption and meets all the criteria for receiving the exemption. Keith Travis then asked for Ms. Littleton to verify that if a school does not have a council it should have an exemption on file. She replied affirmatively. Interim Commissioner Kevin Noland added that a provision in the law also allows a one-school/school district to not have a school council. At this point, Joe Brothers moved approval of the waiver and C.B. Akins seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Review Items

1. **Update on initiatives relative to alternative education.** Division Director Linda Pittenger explained that Kentucky Youth Advocates (KYA) is under contract with the Kentucky Department of Education to look at the situations in A5 and A6 programs and bring a report back to the Board. She noted that today's purpose is to give the Board an interim report and discuss strategies for moving the work forward. Pittenger stated that 65% of students dropping out last year were from alternative facility placements. She commented that while this process is a study, we need the objectivity of people who can go into the schools, talk to students, see who is in the programs, see how the students got there and find out what the outcomes are for the students. Pittenger then introduced Dr. Terry Brooks, head of KYA and asked him to introduce the rest of his team.

Dr. Brooks introduced Dewayne Westmoreland, policy analyst at KYA and Meredith Gere, student intern. He asked Mr. Westmoreland to begin the presentation.

Mr. Westmoreland said that in past years attempts have been made by the Kentucky Department of Education to get an accurate count of students enrolled in alternative programs, but noted that these attempts have resulted in disparities due to definitions of the programs and interpretation of definitions in the programs. He went on to say that this is compounded by the emergence of programs that don't fit the existing definition. Westmoreland clarified that A5 programs are district operated/district controlled facilities with identifiable attendance boundaries designed to provide services to at-risk populations with unique needs. He noted that the population compositions change frequently and are controlled by the local district through assignment practices and

policies. He then defined an A6 program as a district operated instructional program in a non-district institution or school. Mr. Westmoreland gave the example of a school district running a program for the Juvenile Justice Cabinet or the situation of a group home as an A6 program. He then explained that KYA's quantitative and qualitative methodology included a series of key informant strategy sessions with various groups including the Commissioner of Education, Kentucky Department of Education advisory groups, professional groups, a national research review of best practices and program exemplars, a qualitative review of exemplary practices in Kentucky, site visitations arranged geographically and regionally distributed, numerous focus groups and key informant sessions involving stakeholder voices. He then asked Ms. Gere to share information from the various focus groups and where the work stands today.

Ms. Gere emphasized that to understand these students and programs, one must go into the facilities and become immersed in the environment. She indicated that KYA staff had probed administrators, talked with teachers and students, chatted with parents and walked the halls of these facilities to realize the situations in which these students find themselves. Gere commented that one of the most important benefits of going into these facilities is giving a voice to the students most affected by these programs. She shared that the students have much to talk about regarding the change from their home schools to the alternative setting. Gere emphasized that student voice is powerful in bringing about reform that is by and for children.

Terry Brooks then brought the presentation to a close by indicating that this is an interim report and final recommendations are not yet available. However, he shared some threads for the Board to think about for the future as follows:

- A data problem exists in getting an accurate count of students and currently there is not a good way to get that count. Superintendent Lu Young's advice is to take a count on the first day of CATS testing to get the most accurate count. KYA will work with the Department to establish a way of getting several accurate counts during the year because the enrollment in these programs swings widely from month to month.
- Determining the composition of A5 programs is a problem. For example, it is not known whether they reflect the composition of the rest of the district or if they have a disproportionate number of males, the ethnicity of the program is different or the same as the district, how special education students are reflected in the programs, etc. Right now there is now good way to track this.
- Teacher quality is a predominant issue because the Education Professional Standards Board data indicates that teachers in A5 and A6 programs are at a very different level of quality than teachers in A1

programs. One can make the argument that the most highly qualified teachers should be in the A5 and A6 programs.

- The current categories of A5 and A6 are neither sufficient nor illuminating. For instance, many may think that an A5 program is filled predominantly with disciplinary problems. While this is a part of it, a number of these programs exist as an alternative method of learning. A6 programs, which are predominantly KECSAC programs, also have an array of reasons why students are placed there. An emerging belief exists that if the Board wants to get under the surface of what's going on in these programs, there needs to be a more delineated identification system.
- Assessment and accountability is a major issue for A5 and A6 students. After looking at national models, it is evident that the home schools of these students must own the test scores. In many cases, there are not adequate measures of how and what students are learning when assigned to these schools. Some A5 students are in this placement their whole high school career and others are there only for six weeks. The real question is whether anything is happening academically for these students.

Mr. Brooks said that KYA is still early in the process of the study and will come back to the Board with a final report by May.

C.B. Akins thanked the presenters for their information, much of which he said was not new. He noted that many times these programs are places for troubled teachers and students and emphasized that this must change. Akins referred to an article in the Board's materials received this week where a superintendent had the option to either throw out a low test score or lose a considerable amount of money. He felt that we may need to be talking about some accommodations because we cannot throw kids out. On a final note, he advised Mr. Brooks that his intern is very articulate and he needs to not let her get away from working for his organization.

Janna Vice then asked about the plans for the future.

Mr. Brooks responded that the focus groups will be finished by the end of January and then KYA plans to go back and meet again with the advisory groups on potential findings and then begin to formulate recommendations. He noted again that the original calendar had a final report coming to the Board in May.

Next, Joe Brothers said he is hearing our technology program will improve the data issues.

Interim Commissioner Kevin Noland affirmed Mr. Brothers point and said the unique student identifier will assist us in being more accurate in keeping track of students.

Division Director Linda Pittenger went on to say that the student identifier will be key to letting us know what happens to students, but pointed out we may still need some new policies because many of these programs are not separate from the high school and are programs within a school.

Mr. Brooks then pointed out that KYA has not found these facilities to be detention center type of environments and said staff hears most often from students that they like it because it is easy.

C.B. Akins stated this fact is one of his concerns because the programs he is familiar with have not engaged students and he feels if students are not engaged they will soon become enraged.

Bonnie Lash Freeman stated that KYA mentioned focus groups and scans of national best practice in their work. She then asked what other data sources would be used to put the report together.

Mr. Brooks replied that KYA eventually wants to produce a profile of these schools with demographics, attendance, dropout data, etc.

Ms. Freeman went on to say that both the Center for School Safety and KECSAC also work with these students and inquired how KYA is interfacing with them.

Mr. Brooks responded that he and his staff have been in sessions with KECSAC and Jon Akers where information was shared. He felt that this information provides a valuable foundational piece for their work.

Bonnie Lash Freeman continued by saying in the staff note it talks about Commissioner Wilhoit sending out information to these programs reminding them of the requirements for a six-hour day. She felt it would be helpful for KYA to gather information on the make-up of the six-hour day and whether it is truly instructional or not. Freeman also asked that KYA include information on the materials and support services in these programs.

Linda Pittenger noted that Department staff would be working with KYA through this process to understand and underscore the importance of Individual Learning Plans for these students and how these plans can be used to assist these students.

Ms. Freeman asked when the committee would hear from KYA again and Linda Pittenger responded it would be the June meeting.

2. **Interagency Task Force on Dual Credit.** Hilma Prather, Chair for the Task Force on Dual Credit, thanked the Board for being visionary and seeing the need for the work of the task force. She also thanked Janna Vice for her faithful attendance as the Board's representative on the task force. Ms. Prather noted that in 2004 there were over 18,000 dual credit participants, but said now there are over 20,000. She stated that there is no over-arching policy in this area and explained that the task force is trying to resolve some of the issues and tentatively bring recommendations to the Board in April.

Division Director Linda Pittenger pointed out a couple of items appear in the Agenda Book that the task force is asking the Board to provide input on to them. She said that the first one was the vision statement on page 116 of the Agenda Book that reflects the task force's belief that all students should have access to dual credit. She went on to say that funding is a current barrier, the vision implies that every high school would participate in dual credit, the program must involve all partners because it is a P-16 issue and there needs to be an evaluation system.

Hilma Prather then added that due to the research opportunity that is being made available through the grant from the Kentucky Community Technical College System, the task force will probably ask for an extension of the April deadline for its recommendations to the Board.

Chair Bonnie Freeman then asked if there were questions on the vision statement. Ms. Prather emphasized that the key words are equitable access with every child not having to participate but not being denied access if the desire is there.

Joe Brothers inquired why the vision statement talks about just access and not participation.

Ms. Prather replied that the task force is putting faith in the Individual Learning Plan because dual credit may not be the best choice for all students. She emphasized that it will depend on each student's needs; however, she noted the task force wants the barriers to access removed.

Janna Vice then said that her only question on the vision statement concerned whether there could be a qualifier on students having to meet a certain level of quality.

Ms. Prather said that the Individual Learning Plan can become the gatekeeper for those who take dual credit.

At this point, Bonnie Lash Freeman asked to move to the research agenda where she said one place she wondered about was what about student buy-in and ownership. She thought the task force needed to get the student perspective.

Other suggested additions to the research questions were to add a question on the Individual Learning Plan and one on whether dual credit enriches the secondary experience.

Janna Vice then acknowledged the benefit of the task force bringing so many partners to the table.

Bonnie Freeman summarized that this is one way to assure that dual credit courses will be similar, which will be a huge benefit.

3. **Update on Mathematics Initiatives from the Kentucky Department of Education.** Associate Commissioner Starr Lewis introduced Ava Taylor, Math and Science Branch Manager and said she would be giving most of this report. Lewis stated that at the last meeting, staff gave the Board a look at the efforts of state groups relative to mathematics and indicated that at this meeting the focus would be on Kentucky Department of Education state initiatives. She noted that in February, the Jefferson County Math and Science Grant would be featured. Lewis then asked Ms. Taylor to go through the staff note and take questions on Department of Education initiatives.

Ms. Taylor stated that the staff note begins on page 121 of the December Agenda Book and pointed out that the main staff note deals with Kentucky Department of Education-driven initiatives with an attachment that focuses on initiatives where the Department is involved with other partners. She then went through the Kentucky Department of Education-driven initiatives on pages 121, 122 and 123 of the Agenda Book, since these take most of staff's time. Taylor then briefly highlighted those programs found in the attachment on pages 125 through 128, in which the Department partners with others.

Bonnie Lash Freeman asked what the point is of all of the initiatives.

Associate Commissioner Starr Lewis responded that the legislature says that we are to set expectations and assess them. The "how", Lewis noted, is a local level decision. She indicated that we learn from all of the projects and adjust them as needed.

Interim Commissioner Noland said that the Department holds schools accountable and that the Core Content defines what is on the state test. He affirmed Ms. Lewis' contention that the "how" is a local decision.

Janna Vice then commented that the discussion around end-of-course exams will be able to assure commonality through the state in what is taught.

Next, Bonnie Lash Freeman expressed her increasing concern about low-performing schools. She felt that end-of-course assessments could lead to improvements in these schools but said that we have to figure out how to feed

information into them on teaching and learning. Freeman asked that staff make sure all of these initiatives are available to A5 and A6 programs that contain very vulnerable students.

DISCUSSION OF INDIVIDUAL SEARCH FIRM PROPOSALS AND INTERVIEW OF SEARCH FIRM

Jeanne Ferguson moved to enter into closed session for the purpose of discussing individual search firm proposals and interviewing a search firm, and Joe Brothers seconded the motion. The motion carried. The Board went into closed session at 2:45 p.m.

At 4:30 p.m. the Board came out of closed session on a motion by David Rhodes and a second by C.B. Akins. The motion carried. It was announced that no action was taken during the closed session.

2007 KBE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Interim Commissioner Kevin Noland and Bonnie Brinly came forward for the discussion on the legislative agenda. The first item discussed was whether to pursue legislation on principal selection since for the last several legislative sessions as part of its legislative agenda, the Kentucky Board of Education has included clarifying language on principal selection to clearly indicate that the superintendent recommends candidates for the position and the council selects from among those recommended.

Both David Rhodes and Jeanne Ferguson thought that options 1 and 2 on page 96 of the Agenda Book should be pursued.

C.B. Akins indicated that he had seen a school council reject all three names from the superintendent and said he would like to see multiple candidates recommended by the superintendent, but having the council be required to choose from those recommended by the superintendent.

Bonnie Brinly asked if Dr. Akins meant the original list forwarded by the superintendent or others. Akins clarified that he meant the first list.

At this point, David Rhodes moved for the Board to pursue Options 1 and 2 on page 96 of the Agenda Book but to reword the initiatives to indicate multiple candidates as recommended by the superintendent.

Joe Brothers then moved to amend the motion to make it three candidates, but this amendment died from lack of a second.

The question on the original motion was called and it carried with Doug Hubbard voting no.

Next, the Board moved on to consideration of nonresident student options. Kevin Noland first gave a history including the court case in this area to provide some background. He summarized that Option 1 on page 97 of the Agenda Book would get the Board back to where we were before the court case to provide appeal options with more specific criteria. Noland said that Option 2 on page 97 could be done through administrative regulation, except for the SEEK dollars following the student.

Keith Travis stated that he would like to add an appeal process but felt the rest of the options were more complicated than he wanted to pursue.

David Rhodes commented that he would like to pursue Options 2 and 3 on page 97 of the Agenda Book.

Keith Travis continued that he felt these issues need a more global look.

Kevin Noland felt that Option 1 on page 97 had a chance of passing the legislature.

David Rhodes said he could support this approach.

Keith Travis recommended pursuing Option 1 and then having LRC assist the Board in studying how best to proceed in a more global way.

Joe Brothers pointed out that schools are funded per student and not per district. Thus, he stated he would like to see avenues provided for students to go where they desired within reason.

Keith Travis restated that he would like to do Option 1 on page 97 and then ask help from LRC to do a study considering all factors in making recommendations for legislative enactment on nonresident student issues.

At this point, Joe Brothers moved to pursue Option 1 on page 97 of the Agenda Book and Doug Hubbard seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The next issue discussed for consideration to put on the legislative agenda was prevailing wage. Keith Travis encouraged support of Option 1 on page 98 of the Agenda Book.

C.B. Akins suggested that the suspending of the prevailing wage requirement for school construction be for a period of three years so that the impact of the prevailing wage law could be known.

Kyna Koch pointed out that if the legislature does not make appropriations to the School Facilities Construction Commission, there would not be significant school construction so that this could be studied.

Doug Hubbard thought that the Board should pursue Options 1 and 2 on page 98 of the Agenda Book. He then moved to pursue Options 1 and 2 on page 98 of the Agenda Book

with the suspension of the prevailing wage requirement being for a three- year period. Judy Gibbons seconded the motion and it carried.

The Board moved on to discussing SEEK issues and Associate Commissioner Kyna Koch reminded members that in October, a discussion was held about the Augenblick Study. She noted on page 101 of the Agenda Book, she had brought back the four initiatives the Board had requested.

Doug Hubbard stated that he felt the accessible assessment was a budgetary issue.

Kyna Koch explained that this is not related to taxes.

David Rhodes said he could support the first initiative relative to accessible assessment.

Doug Hubbard then moved that a technical amendment to the definition of assessment to define assessment as accessible assessment be pursued. David Rhodes seconded the motion and it carried.

It was clarified that the in-lieu-of taxes and the federal impact aid items would not be pursued at this time.

Associate Commissioner Kyna Koch then called the Board's attention to the items on pages 102 and 103 of the Agenda Book dealing with recommendations from the Task Force on School Facilities. She went through each item and explained its ramifications.

Due to remaining questions from members about some of these issues and the shortness of time on the meeting agenda, Keith Travis asked Board members to think about these recommendations overnight and for staff to come back tomorrow to bring closure to them.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Travis made the following announcements before recessing:

- The Board will be having a group dinner tonight in the Seminar Room of the Capital Plaza Hotel at 7:00 p.m. No action will be taken at the dinner.
- The Full Board will reconvene tomorrow at 8:30 a.m. in the State Board Room.
- The Management Committee will meet tomorrow from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the State Board Room.
- As part of tomorrow's agenda, the Board will spend about fifteen minutes on the legislative agenda to finish up its discussion and action on the School Facilities Task Force recommendations.

Thursday, December 7, 2006

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Keith Travis asked the audience to join him in a moment of silence to recognize what happened at Pearl Harbor on December 7.

CENTER FOR SCHOOL SAFETY UPDATE

Jon Akers, Director for the Center for School Safety, came forward along with Starr Lewis and Nijel Clayton from the Kentucky Department of Education. Akers began by introducing his colleague and friend for the last 16 years, Barbara Gateskill, whom he said is the former principal of Paul Lawrence Dunbar High School and now the Associate Director of the Center for School Safety. Akers then gave a PowerPoint presentation and emphasized these points:

- School safety involves everyone coming into school.
- House Bill 330 created the Center for School Safety that is governed by a board of directors. It is a unique model that utilizes Eastern Kentucky University as the contracting agency that oversees central operations, the Kentucky School Boards Association as the training and conference arm, Murray State University as the pre-service agent, the University of Kentucky as its clearinghouse and various consultants.
- The Center for School Safety is not a regulatory agency but instead is an advisory one that must be invited into schools and districts.
- In regard to funding, the Center began in 1998-1999 with \$5 million allocated for the entire state and the Center operating on ten percent of this amount. Ninety percent of the money goes out to school districts on a formula basis. Currently, in 2006-07, \$10,378,000 was allocated.
- Relative to how school districts use the funds, various avenues are pursued including alternative education programs (80% of districts use the dollars for this purpose), school resource officers, in-school suspension programs, intervention services, community-based programs, training programs and security equipment.
- The Center for School Safety uses 36% of its dollars on personnel, 40% for services, and the rest is overhead expenses such as travel and operations.
- The purpose of the Center for School Safety is to address the needs of educators and students as it relates to safety.
- Services are provided in the four areas of physical safety, relationships, personal safety and behavioral expectations. It is felt that relationships is the most important factor for enhancing school safety.

- Schools are the safest places in society because teachers are trained to make them so.
- The Center provides conferences, trainings and a website, standards for safety, the Safe Schools Data Report, visits to all districts to see how allocations are being used, surveys, needs assessments, focus groups and school safety assessments.
- School safety assessments are performed in partnership with the Kentucky Department of Education and the Kentucky School Boards Association. These assessments look at school climate. The number performed has gone from 13 in FY2003 to 72 in FY2006 and 77 in FY2007. This is a voluntary program.
- School safety is the responsibility of everyone.

At this point, Joe Brothers asked if the Center was offering anything on internal bullying of staff members to each other or to students.

Jon Akers responded affirmatively and said that the Center has strategies in its trainings. He noted that staff must admit that the bullying is happening in order to have it addressed.

Jeanne Ferguson then inquired if students have training sessions on their responsibilities relative to school safety.

Jon Akers said that in some cases this is true and in other schools this does not happen. For those who conduct these type of sessions for students, Akers explained, it takes place early in the year and the program asks students to sign a pledge on what their responsibilities are.

Kaye Baird asked what recommendations the Center has in the case of bomb threats.

Mr. Akers replied that through a check of the environment, the first step is to establish a credible threat and then if it exists, evacuate the facility.

Keith Travis emphasized that he would like to see the Center audit the Kentucky School for the Blind and Kentucky School for the Deaf every year.

Jon Akers responded that the Center has been to these schools once and goes in by invitation.

Travis went on to say that he would like for the Department to send a letter to all superintendents about school safety audits and encourage them to consider this service.

David Rhodes questioned if the resources for school safety should be based on where the violations are occurring.

Mr. Akers stated that this could be considered in the future but noted currently the formula is set by the General Assembly. He cautioned that a lower incidence of violations may mean that a program is working and if the program funds are pulled, then problems may increase.

Joe Brothers emphasized that what is being spent on school safety currently is very minimal.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Action/Consent Items

1. **District Facility Plan: Bowling Green Independent and 2. District Facility Plan Amendment: Shelby County.** Division Director Mark Ryles indicated that both of these items are routine with no serious issues. He noted that Shelby County is a growth district.

Vice Chair Doug Hubbard asked Ryles if he recommended approval of the items and Ryles responded affirmatively.

David Rhodes inquired whether Bowling Green Independent has any reciprocal agreements and Ryles responded yes. Rhodes asked if the committee should review this type of data. Ryles said he could bring this in the future but he said he didn't have any concern on this particular district.

At this point, David Rhodes moved approval of the Bowling Green Independent District Facility Plan and the Shelby County Plan District Facility Plan Amendment. Judy Gibbons seconded the motion and it carried.

3. **2006-2007 Local District Working Budgets.** Kaye Baird moved approval of all submitted working budgets. David Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion carried.
4. **2006-2007 Local District Tax Rates Levied.** David Rhodes asked if the Board could get academic data information on those districts where the contingency was in the double digits. Staff indicated this to be possible.

At this point, Judy Gibbons moved approval of all submitted tax rates levied and Kaye Baird seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Review Items

1. **701 KAR 5:110, Use of local monies to reduce unmet technology need.** Associate Commissioner David Couch explained that it is required every five years to present a new master plan. He noted this to be the third major release and said it covers 2007-2012. Couch gave the following highlights relative to some differences between this master plan and the previous two as follows:

- A lot more input than in the past went into the preparation of this master plan with staff spending in-depth time in ten school districts.
- KDE staff tried to make sure that the plan focuses on the business of education, both instructional and administrative.
- The plan identifies four major areas of emphasis and these are then broken down into ten initiatives.
- Information is included that is important to developing district technology plans.
- Time is spent within the master plan on funding, both discretionary and nondiscretionary. The nondiscretionary must be in place before districts and schools move to the discretionary.

Couch summarized that the regulation and master plan will come back to the Board in February for final approval. He then asked for questions.

Joe Brothers then asked if there are adequate resources in schools to overcome the digital divide.

Couch replied that at the elementary level the answer is yes, but stated at the middle and high school levels, the answer is no. He explained that at the elementary level, the computers are in the classroom whereas at the middle and high school levels computers are in labs. He noted that time is spent in the master plan on this issue and said it is a big challenge to lower the ratio of computers at the high school level. Couch pointed out that the trend is to move to personal devices.

David Rhodes then asked if there is an access problem for some districts to KET resources.

Couch said that in some schools and districts it is a bandwidth issue, but explained that the high-speed network will address this problem. He went on to say that some of the KET applications cannot be done without the high-speed network and a lower ratio of computers.

Vice Chair Doug Hubbard reminded the members that they would see this item again in February.

2. **Annual Report from KHSAA as required by 702 KAR 7:065.** Coming forward for this item were Commissioner Brigid DeVries, Julian Tackett and Larry Boucher, all of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA). Julian Tackett began the presentation by saying this year was successful in terms of fiscal operations. He noted that the Association focused on containing cost and had success with three major events.

Doug Hubbard then asked how much of the \$325,000 for attorney expenses was operating and how much was litigation.

Julian Tackett replied that \$125,000-135,000 of the \$325,000 went to operating and said the litigation varies from year to year. He explained that the legal firm gets a small retainer each month for general services and then the Association pays for litigation as it comes forward. Tackett commented that schools expect rules to be strictly enforced and thus challenges to the rules behooves the Association to litigate.

Doug Hubbard then asked if Board members could get a copy of the KHSAA Handbook.

Interim Commissioner Kevin Noland said that a copy could be mailed to all members and noted that the revision to the handbook will come to the Board in February.

Hubbard then went on to say that he would like members to have a summary of KHSAA litigation.

Julian Tackett responded that this had been provided to Interim Commissioner Noland and Noland commented that he would get it to the members.

Kaye Baird reminded KHSAA that the Board had a discussion about trainers for teams in extreme heat and wondered when more information would come forward on that topic.

Commissioner DeVries replied that the Association will do a survey to its members and come up with recommendations for the KHSAA Board of Control to consider on this topic.

Interim Commissioner Noland clarified that he had sent a letter to KHSAA asking for this data and explained that this will be provided to the Board after the survey is made to its membership.

3. **Kentucky High School Athletic Association Title IX Update on Phase 2 of the 2006-2007 KHSAA Audit Visits Schedule.** Larry Boucher reported that this is the eighth year of the program and said that KHSAA staff is in a revisit cycle this year. He reported that workshops were being conducted for schools on Title IX issues.

David Rhodes commented that the Board had previously received a list of violations and status of the work to correct these violations.

Larry Boucher replied that KHSAA will provide this list in April at the conclusion of its visits to schools.

Chair Travis reminded the Board that it was agreed on yesterday to come back to the recommendations from the School Facilities Task Force to see what of these items would go on its legislative agenda.

At this point, David Rhodes moved to approve all of the items on pages 102 and 103 of the Agenda Book from the School Facilities Task Force, excluding the training and professional development items until more information is received on these. Joe Brothers seconded the motion.

Judy Gibbons then asked if the Task Force that came up with these recommendations was appointed by the legislature and Mark Ryles replied affirmatively. She went on to ask if these recommendations should stand alone as a package or as part of the Board's legislative agenda.

Chair Travis said he agreed with David Rhodes that minus the professional development cost items, the other recommendations should be part of the Board's legislative package because the Department staff would partner with a sponsor to pursue these.

The question was called and the motion carried.

Judy Gibbons then emphasized that she would appreciate it if staff would advocate full funding for the Board's legislative efforts.

C.B. Akins went on to note that relative to the professional development recommendations from the School Facilities Task Force, it is imperative for the districts to provide training for the persons that are selected as facilities officers.

Mark Ryles indicated that staff would do a report on the current professional development that is provided to school districts on the school facilities process and the impact that these initiatives might have.

APPROVAL OF ACTION/CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Kaye Baird moved to approve all of the submitted action/consent items and C.B. Akins seconded the motion. The motion carried. Those items were as follows:

- District Facility Plan for Bowling Green Independent
- District Facility Plan Amendment for Shelby County
- 2006-07 Local District Working Budgets
- 2006-07 Local Tax Rates Levied
- Request for school-based decision making exemption from Prater Borders Elementary in Magoffin County

INTERNAL BOARD BUSINESS

The following items were mentioned during Internal Board Business:

- Brian Blavatt was named Kentucky 2007 Superintendent of the Year and the Board offers its congratulations to him.
- The Board still needs a volunteer to attend SCAAC meetings.
- The January 10 meeting really has no general business to be dealt with on that day and the recommendation is to change it to a Search Committee Meeting. After input from the Board, it was agreed that the meeting would be a combination Search Committee Meeting and full Board meeting so that everyone could give input into the characteristics for the next commissioner.
- The March 7 meeting will stand as the date for a one-day meeting.

KDE EMPLOYMENT REPORT

C.B. Akins noted that he had talked with Linda France at length about the Department being present at conferences around the country for recruiting purposes. He felt that this type of effort needs to start a year in advance. Akins emphasized that students need to be shown that we are serious about exposing them to young Black professionals and we need to support the efforts of Michael Dailey's division.

Chair Travis asked that Kevin Noland help the Board achieve Dr. Akins' suggestion.

INTERNAL BOARD BUSINESS (CONT'D)

Interim Commissioner Kevin Noland pointed out that at the February meeting, this would be in the middle of the General Assembly and that if the House and Senate Education meetings used the same schedule as last year, these would occur on the days of the February meeting. He said that the Board could choose to keep its scheduled meeting on the 7th and 8th or reschedule this meeting.

Chair Travis suggested that the Board keep its current schedule and build in attending these legislative committee meetings as part of the February meeting. The Board concurred.

INTERVIEW OF SEARCH FIRMS

The Board entered into closed session upon a motion by C.B. Akins and a second by Kaye Baird for the purpose of interviewing search firms to assist it in securing a new commissioner of education. The motion carried and the closed session began at 11:00 a.m. At 3:30 p.m., upon a motion by Kaye Baird and a second by Judy Gibbons, the Board came out of closed session. The motion carried and no action was taken during the closed session.

At this point, David Rhodes moved to approve the hiring of Ray and Associates as the Board's search firm and Kaye Baird seconded the motion. The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 3:35 p.m.